MAR 1 3 2015

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO REVIEW THE NEED FOR THE HAWAII SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND.

WHEREAS, the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 and state regulations require the Department of Education to provide a free appropriate public education to all students, which includes a continuum of services for students who are eligible for special education and related services; and

WHEREAS, a public school student who is suspected of having a disability is entitled to an appropriate evaluation, which includes hearing and vision assessments, to determine eligibility for special education; and

WHEREAS, a public school student who is eligible for special education is provided services through an Individualized Education Program; and

WHEREAS, special education services may be delivered in a variety of settings based on the student's needs as addressed in the student's Individualized Education Plan, including the general education environment with the use of adaptations, modifications, supplementary aids or services; a special education setting; or a school other than the student's home school if their specific needs cannot be met at the home school; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind is a public education facility that provides services to any Hawaii student between the ages of three and twenty who is deaf, hard-of-hearing, blind, partially-sighted, or deaf-blind; and

WHEREAS, the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind provides an American Sign Language bilingual-bicultural immersion program for communication and instruction; and WHEREAS, the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind does not charge tuition as a public school; now, therefore,

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BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the House of Representatives concurring, the Department of Education is requested to review the need for the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education determine whether students attending the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind can be integrated into their home schools; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education submit a report to the Legislature on its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chair of the Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind School Community Council.

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